

TIPSS- 3 Questions (1st Set)			
RFP No. TIRNO-04-R-00017			
#	Reference	Question	Answer
1	SBSA, Sole Source - Cover Letter	"Partial Small Business Set-Asides" page 2. Does the phrase "(except for sole source)" mean that IRS can award tasks to winners of the partial small business set-asides in excess of \$250,000?	See paragraph 1 of Amendment 1.
2	Letter to Offerors	On page 2 of the Letter to Offerors, the Technical Requirements states that a proposal for the ISS principal task area is required for all full and open competitors but is a competitive choice (option) for a bidder that is a small business. A proposal for the SSS or SBS task areas is a competitive choice for all offerors. This paragraph by itself seems to suggest that the small business set-aside applies only to ISS. However, Section J.6 breaks out labor hours categories for both full and open and small business in all three task areas. Is the latter case correct (i.e., set-asides apply to all 3 task areas)?	There are potential SBSA in all three task areas.
3	Hardware Maintenance	Clarification is requested on whether the subject RFP (TIRNO-04-R-00017) contains ANY requirement for hardware maintenance. Although this RFP primarily concerns software services, there is the mention of "hardware support". Is this just integration / configuration or does it include maintenance?	Maintenance services are not anticipated.
4	Telecommunications Related Services - C.3, Par 3	1. Does the Government anticipate a need for Telecommunications related services? 2. Would the task orders for these related services be included under one of the 3 principle task areas? If so, which task area?	1. The Government anticipates a minimal need for Telecommunications related services. 2. Telecommunications related services can be found in the Information System Services (ISS) Principle Task Area (see Section C.6.1, Information System Services (ISS) Principle Task Area.
5	Contractor Furnished Items - C.4.8, Page C-11	What is meant by Contractor Furnished Items -- does this mean that these items are not billable to the Government?	All Contractor furnished items in support of requirements under Section C are billable to the Government unless otherwise specified during specific task order negotiations.

6	Labor Categories - H.3, Paragraph 1, Page H-6	This paragraph states that additional labor categories may be necessary over the term of the contract. Is it acceptable to propose additional labor categories in the proposal? If so, how do we do this and should we propose rates for these categories?	Additional labor categories, if any, will be negotiated on an as needed basis, via individual task orders at the time of task order award.
7	COI - H.15	Does the potential for a company to be both a Prime and a Subcontractor create the potential for Conflicts of Interest that the IRS is concerned about in Section H.15, page H-9? TIPSS-2 considered this on a case by case basis.	Teaming arrangements are different than organizational conflicts of interest addressed in FAR 9.505. If the Contracting Officer decides that a particular task order involves a conflict of interest they will follow procedures addressed in FAR subsection 9.506.
8	Key Mgt. Personnel - H.19, Paragraph 1	We are not sure where we should include Section H.19. We assume it should be included in Vol 2, since the resumes are provided in Volume 2. Is that correct?	The resumes should be included in Volume 2.
9	CMM - I.3.1, Paragraph (b)	We interpret the CMMI compliance contact listed in this paragraph to mean that the government wants the offeror's CMMI point of contact listed. We also assume that this information should be included within Volume 1, T&C. Is our interpretation correct?	See Section I.3.1, paragraph (b) as revised in Amendment 1.
10	Overtime - I.3.12, Paragraph (a)	This paragraph addresses when overtime is authorized under this contract, but seems to indicate that, unless a dollar amount is agreed to during negotiations, the government will not pay a premium for overtime. Is that correct? If so, will the dollar amount be a fixed amount or a variable amount based on time-and-a-half? Should an amount be proposed by the offeror at the time of submission of the proposal?	Overtime will be considered on a task order by task order basis and should be negotiated at that point.

11	SBSA Goals	It was noticed that at least one (1) award, which carries a Task Order of \$100,000 or less, will be made to 8(a), HUBZone and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses, collectively as an SBSA. It is understood that three percent of all prime contract and subcontract awards by the federal government be awarded to SDVOSBs.	Under TIPSS 3, there is a full and open competition as well as the following set-asides: small business, 8(a) Competitive, HUBZone Competitive, and Service Disabled Veteran-Owned competitive. It is anticipated that at least one award will be made under each of the set-asides if it is determined to be in the best interest of the Government. Once an award has been made, the small business awardees; including the 8(a), HUBZone, Service Disabled Veteran-Owned, and small business will be eligible to compete for all task orders issued with a threshold of \$250,000 or less. In addition, these small business concerns can compete on all of the orders over \$250,000 along with the businesses awarded contracts under the full and open competition. The three percent goal for Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Firms is a government-wide goal. Each agency is to make strides to meet the three percent goal by awarding a total of three percent of their procurement dollars to Service Disabled Veteran-Owned small business concerns. An award under TIPSS-3 to a Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business will be a vehicle that IRS and Treasury can use to help meet the three percent goal.
12	ISS Labor Categories - J.6	Information Systems Services (ISS) Labor Categories and Hours – Full & Open (F&O) – CPFF, Total hours for Subject Matter Experts is shown as 28,112. Should the total hours be 8,112?	See Section J.6 as revised in Amendment 1.
13	Teaming	Can a small business compete as a prime for the small business set-aside and be a sub on the open competition contracts?	A small business can compete as a prime for SB set aside and be a sub on the full and open competition contracts.

14	T&M Rates - Various Skill Levels	The Section B.6.1 CLINs for the T&M Hourly Labor Rates only provide for the submittal of one set of prices, while the statement from C.7.2 above indicate that each position encompasses various skill levels. Presenting the most accurate price to the Government is dependent upon the skill level needed to complete the task. The appropriate skill level to apply to a given task is most accurately determined at the time the task order request is issued. For the purposes of this evaluation, we request that the Government establish a skill level for each of the T&M labor categories so that all submittals have a common approach to pricing the T&M labor categories, which will establish a common ground for evaluation.	See Section C.7.2 as revised in Amendment 1.
15	J.6, Pages J6-2 and J6-7	Some of the labor categories for the T&M portion are not listed under the CPFF portion. There are no hours under the CPFF portion for infrastructure labor (i.e., Program Manager, Business Manager, Project Manager, and Quality Assurance Manager). Does this mean that these costs should not be bid for the CPFF portion of the RFP and subsequent CPFF tasking?	See Section L.16.1 as revised in Amendment 1.
16	T&M Labor Rates - J.6, Pages J6-7 and J6-8	If only the Information Systems Services area is being proposed, are we required to bid all of the T&M labor categories listed or only those that we will be supporting?	Section J.6 provides estimated hours for T&M and CPFF. Submit a proposal on the categories provided under Sections B and J.6.
17	Rates- J.6	Is the contractor to assume that the Government requires only Government Site Time and Material Rates and that Contractor Site rates are not required?	See Section J.6 as revised in Amendment 1.
18	Teaming	Can one vendor be a subcontractor for more than one prime? Or can a vendor be a prime on one task and a subcontractor on another task?	See Section L.13 as revised in Amendment 1.

19	Teaming	Is there any sort of restrictions pertaining to being a sub to one contractor and submitting a proposal to also Prime?	See Sections L.13, L.17 and L.18 as revised in Amendment 1.
20	Proposal Submission - L.1, Par 1, Page L-5 L.2, Par All, Page L-5 L.5, Par (e), Page L-7 G.5, Par 1	We are not sure where we should include the following information, but assume all of it should be included in Volume 1, T&C. Is that correct? 1. the FAR clauses in Section L.1 and L.2; 2. Section L.5: Uncompensated overtime statement: If a company pays its employees for each hour they work, and so does not have “uncompensated overtime”, it would not have an “uncompensated overtime” policy. We assume that such a company should include a statement somewhere in its proposal that it does not have uncompensated overtime – that it pays its employees for all hours worked. Is that correct? 3. Section G.5, which requires entering a remittance address.	See the note added to Section L.8 in Amendment 1. 1. See the note added to Section L.8 in Amendment 1. 2. See Section L.5 as revised in Amendment 1. 3. Section G.5 should be completed at time of award.
21	Proposal/ Award Restrictions - L.13	Section L13 appears to be contradictory to the example used in the last paragraph of Section L17. Please clarify the Government's position in allowing a small business to participate in offers as the prime under the partial small business and as a sub under the full and open competition at the same time	See Sections L.13, L.17 and L.18 as revised in Amendment 1.
22	CMM	Section J.8.1 (Pre-Award CMMI Validation) references the IRS Policy and Procedure 39.1(B) Capability Maturity Model. We searched both the RFP and the IRS web site for a link to this document without success. Is it available in electronic format for public viewing?	See paragraph 2 of Amendment 1.
23	CMM	Is the compliance with CMM or CMMI required for submission of the proposal or only for task awards of software development tasks?	See Sections C.4.13 and J.7 as revised in Amendment 1.

24	CMM - L.14.4.3	In the list of bullets, the 5th bullet talks about all the process areas in reference to the SW-CMM, should they be more accurately depicting CMMI Staged 2 Process Areas? Specifically in regards to Supplier Agreement Management, is it recognized that this process area can be out scoped and the organization still accomplish all Level 2 Process Areas?	See Section L.14.4.3 as revised in Amendment 1.
25	CMM	Is it SCAMPI results that are expected to be due on November 29th?	See Sections C.4.13 and L.14.4.2 as revised in Amendment 1.
26	CMM - J.8.3, L.14.4.3	Under Acceptance Criteria the 8th major bullet states "was performed by qualified external assessors; specifically: all appraisal team members were SEI trained and certified in the Introduction to CMMI (Staged Representation) course and Intermediate concepts of CMMI". According to SCAMPI V1.1: Method Definition Document that meets all ARC requirements for a Class A appraisal; it does not have the Intermediate Concepts of CMMI course as a requirement for team members. Is it necessary that this level of training exist for all SCAMPI team members to be considered a valid appraisal?	See Sections J.8.3 and L.14.4.3 as revised in Amendment 1.
27	CMM, SCAMPI L.14.4.2	We understand that the SCAMPI on-site period must have begun no earlier than 18 August 2003. We further understand that the on-site period may begin later than 18 August 2004 (proposal submission date), as long as we complete the compliance appraisal process and so report to the Government by 29 November 2004. Is this correct?	The on-site period must have begun no earlier than November 29, 2003. The on-site period can begin later than August 18, 2004. See Section L.14.4.2.

28	CMM - L.14.4.2	<p>It appears that a new paragraph mark was lost. Please confirm that the text in the bullet ends with the word “interviewed” and that a new paragraph begins with “Offerors”, resulting in:</p> <p>+C15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-site period dates of performance and interview schedule detailing names, roles, and organizational affiliations of individuals interviewed Offerors proposing under the Partial Small Business Set-Aside (SBSA) have two (2) options: <p>(1) SBSA (8(a), HUBZone, Service Disabled Veteran-Owned and Small Business Set-Aside) Offerors may validate their SEI CMMI Level 2 status by providing the same CMMI information required for proposing under the full and open competition; or alternatively,</p> <p>(2) SBSA Offerors may choose to defer validation of their SEI CMMI Level 2 status until after contract award.</p>	See Section L.14.4.2 as revised in Amendment 1.
29	CMM	A firm that is licensed by the SEI to conduct SCAMPI assessments in the same manner as an external assessor is licensed and the results are registered at the SEI in the same fashion. Is this acceptable or does the IRS require assessment by an external company?	See Section J.8.3 as revised in Amendment 1.
30	CMM Eval. Criteria	It is requested that the IRS reconsider some of the evaluation criteria in order to enable small businesses to bid on this contract. In particular, it is requested that the following criteria be removed for small businesses (may still include for large businesses): The SCAMPI information submitted is validated against established criteria and must clearly indicate: examined at least 3 projects covered, in the aggregate, at least 20% of the technical workforce proposed for software development. If these sub criteria are included with respect to the SEI CMMI certification, this would severely restrict the level of competition because many small businesses will be unable to qualify.	These sub criteria have been reviewed and found to be necessary to evaluate the proposals. Compliance to this requirement is mandatory.

31	CMM	What are specific requirements for members of the assessment teams?	See Section L.14.4.3 as revised in Amendment 1.
32	EIT Accessibility Standards Evaluation - J.10, K.17	<p>1. Please confirm that the reference in Section K.17, paragraph (b), should be to Section J-10, Electronic & Information Technology Accessibility Standards Evaluation (4/13/01), and not to Section J-8, Government Capability Maturity Model (CMMI) Requirements.</p> <p>2. As this RFP is for labor categories to provide services and is not requesting software, hardware, nor specific identified services (at this time), please clarify what action, if any, the Offeror should take regarding Section K.17 and Attachment J-10.</p>	<p>1. See Section K.17 as revised in Amendment 1.</p> <p>2. None until Task Order Award.</p>
33	SB	We are a small business, but we do not have any certifications, except for our financial documents, would that be sufficient to qualify under the Small Business heading?	A small business must meet the definitions of small based on the NAICS code and size standard for the procurement. If the company meets the size criteria, they are eligible to compete under the small business set-aside. In order to be eligible for award, the company would also have to meet the technical requirements of the Request for Proposal.
34	Bidder's List	Is there an interested parties bidder's list that we can be placed on so other businesses can consider subcontracting opportunities with us?	The Attendee listing for the TIPSS 3 Networking Conference is currently posted on the TIPSS-3 webpage located at: http://www.procurement.irs.treas.gov/tirno04r00017/index.htm . This listing provides prospective offerors' interest as a Prime, Sub, or both.
35	Reference for Multiple Awards - M.3, Par 1	The reference listed appears to be incorrect. Should it be L.9?	See Section M.3 as revised in Amendment 1, which corrects the reference to Section L.9.
36	Reference for Format and Instructions - M.4, Par 1	The reference listed appears to be incorrect. Should it be L.12?	See Section M.4 as revised in Amendment 1, which corrects the reference to Section L.12.

37	Proposal Submissions, File Format - L.12(c), L.15	Please clarify software versions for electronic copies, and will the Government accept PDF files for item #1, Text files (including charts, diagrams, and the like): Microsoft Word 97?	See Section L.15 as revised in Amendment 1.
38	Oral Presentations - L.15.2, Par 1, Page L-19; L.15.6, Par 1, Page L-28	We assume that section D of the technical proposal, ORAL PRESENTATIONS, will be blank upon original submission. If a company makes it into the competitive range, only then will it submit anything, based upon the amendment. Is that correct?	See Sections L.15.2 and L.15.6 as revised in Amendment 1.
39	One-Two Page Introduction - Par L.12 (c) Par L.15.2	Would the government please accept a one-two page introduction to each of the 3 major sections (Project Profiles, Management Approach, Resumes), and if so, would the government please add 6 pages to the total page count to accommodate this information?	Introductions to proposal sections, compliance matrices and executive summaries are not required. Comply with Section L.15.2 as amended.
40	Reference to Content - L.15.5, Par 2	Section L.12.2 does not appear to exist. Please confirm the reference is to Section L.12.	See Section L.15.5, 2nd paragraph, as revised in Amendment 1.
41	Management Approach - Par L.15.2	"TECHNICAL SECTION B –MANAGEMENT APPROACH (See L.15.4) Full and Open Competition Management Approach - not to exceed 15 pages (1 slide per page)." Question: These instructions indicate that the management approach is to be submitted as slides, rather than written text. Can this section be submitted in PowerPoint?	See Sections L.12 (c) and L.15.4 as revised in Amendment 1.

42	Resumes - L.15.2	The instructions for the Technical Volume, Section C, Resumes, Full and Open Competition directs contractors to provide four Key Management (KM) Resumes and four Back-up KM resumes. Is the backup resume considered a person to replace a key person if they leave for some reason? Or, is the backup resume a person who will support the key person or persons in the key person's duties? Is the total number of backup resumes four or is it four resumes per key position?	See Section L.15.5, 3rd paragraph.
43	Project Profiles Cover Letter	"Partial Small Business Set-Asides;" page 2 and RFP section L; para L.15.3, sub para 4 beginning "Considerations for relevancy...;" page L-21. If offerors are submitting as small businesses under the partial small business set-aside provision and will be eligible for "Set-Asides Task Orders estimated at \$250,000 or less" than to be relevant why must these offerors submit project profiles that are of a value ">\$250,000 (SB)?"	See Section L.15.3 as revised in Amendment 1.
44	Project Profiles	L.15.2; page L-20 states that 3 profiles are required for each task area. Max 10 pages each; 30 pages entire. Can that requirement be made to state a MINIMUM of three profiles so that we as the prime can provide our own profiles as well as provide some of those of our subcontractors. The page restriction can then be the same as for the full and open competition.	Page limitations remain as stated in Section L.15.2.
45	Project Profile - L.15.3	Can a project profile consist of an entire IDIQ contract, such as TIPSS-2, or does the Government want only individual task orders?	See Section L.15.3 as revised in Amendment 1.
46	Project Profiles	Please confirm that this sentence should be a lead-in to the preceding list that begins with "TECHNICAL SECTION A – PROJECT PROFILES (See L.15.3).	See Section L.15.2 as revised in Amendment 1.

47	Project Profiles - M.4.2	"The technical evaluation will begin with an evaluation of the Offeror's project profiles...". Section M.8 shows Project Profiles as the 4th most important area of the proposal. Also, the Project Profiles section will be the most voluminous section of the proposal (at least 50 pages and up to 150 pages). Please clarify this apparent conflict.	The order of importance stated in Section M is what the Government intended and considers appropriate. Page limitations are relevant to the estimated amount of space to provide the data requested.
48	Reference to Management Approach - L.15.4	Paragraph 4 includes a reference to L12.4 which does not exist. Should that reference be L15.4?	See Section L.15.4, 4th paragraph as revised in Amendment 1.
49	Staffing - L.15.4.3	The paragraph reads, "This section shall describe current staff and hiring procedures..." Is the intent for the contractor to describe two elements 1) our current staff, and 2) our hiring procedures? Or is the intent for the contractor to describe 1) Staff procedures, and 2) Hiring procedures?	The Offeror is required to describe two (2) elements: 1) your current staff; and, 2) your hiring procedures.
50	Cost/Price Proposal - L.16, Vol 3	What level of cost/price backup or detail does the Government require for subcontractors?	The RFP requirements make no distinction between Prime and subcontractor for cost/price backup or detail. It is suggested you submit your data in a sealed envelope marked "confidential to be opened by government personnel only", to your Prime Teaming Partner to include as part of their submission. You may also submit your backup data directly to the IRS clearly identifying which Prime Proposal you are the subcontractor on. The data must be clearly traceable to the subcontractor cost identified in the Prime's Proposal.
51	Labor Category Rates - L.16.1	If a firm has never been audited by DCAA, it will not be able to use forward pricing rates and would be unable to submit documentation from DCAA to support such rates. An alternative in reference is to submit documentation from "the Administrative Contracting Officer (ACO)." Which ACO is IRS referring to in this reference?	The ACO is any Federal Government Administrative Contracting Officer (ACO) that is administering your Federal contract.
52	TIPSS-2	Who were the top 3 (in volume) large and small contractors on TIPSS?	Refer to the IRS TIPSS-2 Website located at http://tipss.web.irs.gov/ .